

telephone networks support Internet access and will soon offer video, and the Internet supports an amazing variety of applications.

I believe reform to our telecommunications laws is needed, and we should make reform a priority. It is time to tear down regulatory barriers between telephone, wireless, video, and the Internet to unleash innovation and encourage private investment.

I applaud the leadership of Senators STEVENS and INOUE on the Senate Commerce Committee in scheduling an ambitious slate of hearings to address telecom reform. As the hearings begin, I want to outline some basic principles I would like to see embodied in any reform legislation that moves forward out of committee.

In order to tap the infinite potential technology has to improve the way we communicate, I believe we should do the following:

No. 1, eliminate regulatory barriers that hinder innovation and encourage private investment in new telecommunications facilities and services; No. 2, streamline video franchising requirements to facilitate greater consumer choice of video providers, while allowing municipalities to protect community interests; No. 3, encourage a favorable regulatory environment for robust competition among communications providers, while protecting consumers' access to content and services; No. 4, allow for the development of uniform consumer protection standards, while recognizing the importance of State and local regulators in addressing consumer concerns; and No. 5, use the public spectrum to promote development of new wireless communications services such as broadband Internet.

Any telecom reform must address the needs of every American consumer regardless of where they live. Rural areas like Nebraska cannot be left behind. I believe that technology holds enormous economic promise to rural America, and innovation and competition must be encouraged in even the most remote areas of our country. Therefore I advocate that reform legislation do the following:

No. 1, ensure the stability of the Universal Service Fund in order to preserve affordable telephone service in rural areas, and for all Americans, as well as to continue support for schools, libraries and rural health care providers; No. 2, promote private investment in and deployment of broadband Internet and other advanced telecommunications services, in rural America; and No. 3, encourage increased wireless coverage and introduction of new wireless services to rural America.

In order for the United States to be a leader in the global economy, we must modernize our telecommunications laws to ensure we are fostering investment, innovation, and competition and not impeding progress. We also must ensure that everyone—regardless of

where they live—benefits from modernization of our telecom laws.

I believe we must act now to protect our place in the world as a leader in communications, and I look forward to the debate on this very important issue.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this year, as we celebrate Black History Month, we also mourn the loss of two great civil rights leaders: Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

These women were both pivotal figures in the civil rights movement, leaders who inspired all of us with their commitment, their dignity, and their incredible courage.

Both dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom—to ridding the South of the cruelty of segregation and ridding our society of the scourge of racism.

Both lived to see tremendous progress in America and both lived to see how much is still left undone.

As we mourn the passing of these heroic figures of the civil rights movement, we must ensure that the cause of justice for which they worked so hard, and sacrificed so much—marches on.

As we mourn these great leaders, and celebrate their lives, we must also ask ourselves what we can do to honor the contributions they made, and the way they worked to transform our Nation. I am reminded of something Rosa Parks once said about Dr. King. She was concerned that, while the birthday of Dr. King had become a national holiday, he was being depicted as merely, “a dreamer.” As I remember him,” she said, “he was more than a dreamer. He was an activist who believed in acting as well as speaking out against oppression.”

Once again, Rosa Parks was right: It is not only Dr. King's dream that endures, although it does endure, and has given strength to so many. It is the actions of Dr. King, and Coretta Scott King, and Rosa Parks, and the actions of so many millions of others, that have brought us forward in an inexorable march to freedom.

Dr. King said it himself, in a different way, when he spoke about the Montgomery Bus Boycott: “We came to see that, in the long run, it is more honorable to walk in dignity than ride in humiliation. So, in a quite dignified manner, we decided to substitute tired feet for tired souls, and walk the streets of Montgomery.”

They met injustice with action. They walked in dignity, for 381 days, until they met with victory. And today we, too, must move forward on the civil rights issues that press us to action—on racial profiling, on voting rights, on the death penalty; and also on access to good education and good health care, on addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis, and all the issues where inequality still plagues our Nation.

Dr. King, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks—they, and so many others, would rather have tired feet than tired souls, and so must we.

During Black History Month, as we pay tribute to their accomplishments, and as we rededicate ourselves to the goals we have yet to achieve, we know that those great Americans would never be complacent, would never tire, would never be satisfied with anything less than justice. And neither must anyone in this body, or in this country.

We must commit to walk on together in that march for equality in this country, and justice in this world, resolving that we, too, may have tired feet but never a tired soul.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO PACCAR, INC.

• Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate a great American innovator.

It is a special pleasure to recognize an exceptional company which today has earned the prestigious National Medal of Technology, the highest honor given in our Nation for technological innovation. PACCAR Incorporated is a model of success and a Washington State institution. In 2005, the company celebrated its 100th year in business. You might not recognize the PACCAR name, but perhaps you have heard of some of PACCAR's finest brands: Kenworth and Peterbilt trucks.

PACCAR is one of our Nation's top truck manufacturers and today they are cited for: “pioneering efforts and industry leadership in the development and commercialization of aerodynamic, lightweight trucks that have dramatically reduced fuel consumption and increased the productivity of U.S. freight transportation.”

This National Medal is a distinct honor bestowed by the President since 1985. It was first mandated by Congress in 1980, established to recognize the significant contributions that America's leading innovators have made to the Nation's economic strength and standard of living. The award is given annually to individuals, teams, and/or companies or divisions whose work has made a lasting impact on our lives through the development and commercialization of groundbreaking technology in our Nation.

Past recipients include leaders in our Nation's cutting-edge science and high-tech communities—companies such as Dow, Dupont, and Corning or individuals such as those who have performed the first human heart transplant and invented the first whole-body CT scanner. The National Medal serves to honor the legacy of innovation that has made our Nation a technological leader for more than two centuries. And it seeks also to inspire the future generations of innovators who will keep our Nation strong for years to come.